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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.72, please substitute the Abstract of the Disclosure section of the specification with the replacement Abstract of the Disclosure section provided on a separate sheet enclosed with this response.

Please substitute the paragraphs of the specification identified below with the following replacement paragraphs, respectively:

1) Paragraph beginning on page 6, line 3.

The illustrated teat cup assembly 100 can be assembled by extending a free end 120 of the inflation portion 110 through the interior of the sleeve 160 so that a head portion 130 fits over an upper end portion 170 of the tubular sleeve 160. The inflation portion 110 can then be placed in tension along an axial direction 115, from a non-tensioned position (shown in outline), by invertedly drawing the free end 120 around an outer surface ~~164~~163 of a lower end portion 172 of the tubular sleeve 160, as indicated by arrows 117. That is, the free end 120 of the inflation portion 110 is pulled downward and folded back around the outer surface ~~164~~163 of the lower end portion 172 of the sleeve 160. The milk receiving cup 180 can then be axially aligned and slid over the inverted free end 120 of the inflation portion 110 to sandwich the inverted free end 120 between the cup and the lower end portion 172 of the sleeve 160. The milk receiving cup can be configured to mate with the sleeve and capture the lower, formerly free end of the inflation portion, and lock tight with an interference fit. With this arrangement, the tension placed on the inflation portion draws the head portion 130 against the upper end portion 170 of the sleeve 160 to provide an air-tight seal between the head portion 130 and the tubular sleeve 160. An adhesive, sealant, or combination thereof can be used to supplement the seal between the liner 105 and the sleeve 160 at the upper and/or lower portion of the sleeve in other embodiments.

2) Paragraph beginning on page 8, line 29.

The head portion 110 also can include a cylindrical retaining extension 144 configured to extend substantially longitudinally downward from the cylindrical wall 134 of the head portion 130. Such a retaining extension 144 can include an inner surface 146 sized and configured to cooperate with and be positioned against the tubular sleeve 160 adjacent the upper end portion 170. The inner surface 146 of the retaining extension 144

can include a ledge 148 defined therein and configured to abut against a corresponding blocking edge ~~164~~169 defined in the upper end portion 170 of the tubular sleeve. Further, the retaining extension 144 can include a cylindrical lip 145 defined on the free end 147 thereof configured to fit tightly around the tubular sleeve 160 below the blocking edge ~~164~~169.

3) Paragraph beginning on page 11, line 9.

FIGS. 6, 6(a), 6(b), and 6(c) illustrate different examples of an interference fit locking configuration that can be provided between the lower end portion 172 of the sleeve 160 and the milk receiving cup 180 in different exemplary embodiments. With reference to FIG. 6, in one embodiment a lock between the milk receiving cup 180 and the sleeve 160 is effected by a bead 191 disposed annularly on the lower portion 172 of the sleeve and a corresponding groove 193 in the cup as before described. With reference to the Figure, it will be appreciated that a beveled portion 195 of the lower end portion of the sleeve is provided to accommodate expansion of the inflation portion of the liner 105 adjacent its lower end 120. The inflation is pushed upward as the milk receiving cup is pushed over it, and the end 120 reaches a stop 197 intermediate the beveled portion and the bead. By elastic deformation of the milk receiving cup at a thickened portion 199 and elastic deformation of the sleeve at the location of the bead, the cup snaps into place and remains locked there by interference of the cup and sleeve requiring deformation to release the lock. The portion of the liner adjacent the lower free end 120 of the inflation portion ~~112~~110 resists being drawn downward because it must further deform to do so. The beveled portion 195 thus cooperates with the milk receiving cup and the elastomeric nature of the liner to capture the liner and hold it in place.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please note and substitute the Figures in the application identified below with those in the replacement sheets enclosed with this response:

- 1) Original Figure 1 to be replaced with Replacement Figure 1.
- 2) Original Figure 2 to be replaced with Replacement Figure 2.
- 3) Original Figure 3 to be replaced with replacement Figure 3.
- 4) Original Figure 4(a) to be replaced with replacement Figure 4(a).
- 5) Original Figure 6 to be replaced with replacement Figure 6.
- 6) Original Figure 7 to be replaced with replacement Figure 7.